

ABSTRACT

A system and method for enabling a wireless terminal to access and operate ubiquitous devices ("UDs"), such as televisions, DVD players, etc. The system comprises a server coupled to access points and UD's via a LAN or a WLAN. Each access point is associated with both a map of an associated area and an overlay indicating the location of the UD's within that area. In response to wireless terminal requests relayed by an access point, the server retrieves the map and overlay associated with the access point, and transmits that data to the terminal for display. Alternatively, a list of UD's may be transmitted. Selection of a UD from the display causes an image of the UD's control panel to be displayed, from which the device may be remotely controlled by the user. A mechanism is also provided to permit users to display maps of areas other than the one in which the user is currently located to permit remote control of UD's in such areas.